



## **~ RECREATION DEPARTMENT & COMMISSION~**

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### **~ 2004 REPORT ~**

The mission of the Milford Recreation Commission is to serve as advocates on behalf of the Milford community in promoting recreation and leisure activities for all ages and interests by:

- Providing a forum for communication and coordination of recreation programs and issues.
- Assisting the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Department with recommendations for best utilization of existing park and recreation facilities.
- Assisting the Board of Selectmen and Recreation Department with recommendations for implementing appropriate recreation programs.
- Providing recommendations for long-range community recreation capital improvements.

**SUMMARY** - 2004 completes the eighth year of operation of the Recreation Department, and with it brings to a close another successful year of swimming, ice-skating, fireworks, music, sports, drama, and a variety of other activities for children, seniors and everyone in between.

Milford is a diverse town with a vast array of interests. With the hiring of Nicole Banks as the new Recreation Director, the Recreation Commission hopes to assist the department in providing even more programs and events that satisfy the leisure and recreational interests of the residents of Milford.

The year 2004 saw many accomplishments for the Recreation Department and Commission. A new ice skating rink at Shepard Park provided family fun for all, and the reintroduction of family games and activities at our annual July 4th celebration was a welcome addition. During this year's Pumpkin Festival, the Recreation Commission also co-sponsored a Family Hike at the Beaver Brook Trails. Facilities improvements for 2004 included the completion of the Keyes pool house addition, as well as new fencing, irrigation, and safety improvements at Shepard Park. In 2005 the Commission hopes to add to these improvements a new pavilion at Keyes Field and the resurfacing of the 60' baseball diamonds at Shepard Park and Keyes Field.

**LOOKING FORWARD** - One of the goals of the commission for 2005 is to increase the number and variety of programs for all age groups. Most importantly however the commission believes funding for the programs and activities should not come from taxes, but be self-funded or paid for through user fees, grants and donations.

The 1995 purchase of Kaley Park behind Milford Medical Center will greatly relieve scheduling pressures on town fields. The new park will also provide a nice assortment of recreation activities, including a canoe launch, horseshoe pits, walking trails and a picnic area. However, more work is needed before this facility is usable. In 2005, the Recreation

Commission hopes to work toward improving this site, specifically providing access to the park and doing basic site work to level an area suitable for recreational activities.

Another new addition in 2005 will be the opening of a poolside concession stand, providing residents with refreshments while also helping to defray the costs of running the pool.

**DEPARTMENT GOALS** - To provide and enhance a full spectrum of community-based recreation activities for all ages, including youth, adult and senior programming.

- Organize and improve the administrative side of recreation planning.
- Focus on communication with existing program leaders and build relationships with other organizations with a stake in Milford recreation.
- Enhance existing programs and seek community input on new program offerings to better support the future needs of the Milford community.
- To form a close working relationship with the Recreation Commission, relying on them to provide public representation, information gathering, collaboration with interested parties, and direct guidance and support for the Recreation Director.
- Rely on the Recreation Commission for history and background on the operations of the Recreation Department and facility use and management.
- Designate Commission members an area of expertise and representation to include critical areas such as senior, adult, youth, fundraising, etc.
- To plan for future community needs by maintaining and updating facilities and expanding and evaluating programs.
- Form a history of program attendance and revenue to base future planning decisions upon.
- Evaluate programs with regard to success or failure of planning, implementation, and budgeting.
- Develop funding sources to supplement program costs including grants, donations, and fundraising efforts.

**SPECIAL THANKS** - The Recreation Commission and Department wish to recognize all of the community organizations, merchants, industries, businesses, and individuals for their continued support of recreation and sport activities within the Town. The Commission and Director also plan to work more closely with the multitude of town departments, organizations, and businesses to improve and better schedule events and activities.

We also sincerely thank the scores of volunteers who donated their time and services. Milford's recreational endeavors are reliant upon volunteers and would not exist without them.

Respectfully submitted,

Recreation Commission and Nicole Banks, Recreation Director

